

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, and 19-22 are allowed.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew T. Harry on 10/20/2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows: claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are amended. Claim 23 is cancelled.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing device, comprising:
transmitting means for transmitting user registration data necessary to secure a user's exclusive storage area by user registration in a server connected in a network for content distribution, to said server over a network;
receiving means for receiving address data defined, in part, by the user registration data, the address designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area over said network and for receiving one or more automatic upload programs each of said automatic upload programs being programmed to connect to a unique part of said exclusive storage area and to provide an interface for editing condition data to manage distribution of an associated

content file, said condition data including information specifying one of a plurality of distribution channels at the server from which the content file is distributed over the network;

connection means for allowing each of said automatic upload programs to perform connection processing automatically to said access point in the said server via actuation of a corresponding upload icon; and

transfer means for writing the content file to be distributed to the exclusive storage area automatically when connection processing is performed and for transferring ~~the~~ an associated control file controlling distribution of the transferred content file from the server, the control file including the condition data set up through the interface and user information data related to the user registration,

wherein a genre of the content file, a codec used to encode and/or decode the content file, a schedule specifying when the content file is broadcast from the server over the network, a commercial setting including a link corresponding to commercial data associated with the content file and a content identification corresponding to the content file are included in the associated control file and are edited via the interface and transmitted to the server.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A server connection method, comprising:

transmitting user registration data necessary to secure a user's exclusive storage area by user registration in a server connected in a network for content distribution, to said server over the network;

receiving address data defined, in part, by the user registration data, the address designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area from said server over said network;

receiving an automatic upload program;

performing connection processing automatically to said access point in the said server via actuation of a corresponding upload icon of the automatic upload program based on said address data received by said receiving means;

providing an interface for editing condition data to manage distribution of an associated content file, said condition data including information specifying one of a plurality of distribution channels at the server from which the content file is distributed over the network;

writing a data file to the exclusive storage area automatically when connection processing is performed to be distributed;

transferring the an associated control file controlling distribution of the transferred data file from the server, the control file including the condition data and user information data related to the user registration data related to the user registration;

updating a genre of the content file, a codec used to encode and/or decode the content file, a schedule specifying when the content file is broadcast from the server over the network, a commercial setting including a link corresponding to commercial data associated with the content file and a content identification corresponding to the content file of the condition data via the interface; and

updating the server with the updates of the condition data made via the interface.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium adapted to store computer program instructions which cause a computer to implement a method of information processing, the method comprising:

transmitting user registration data necessary to secure a user's exclusive storage area by user registration in a server connected in a network for content distribution, to said server over the network;

receiving address data defined, in part, by the user registration data, the address designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area from said server over said network and ~~of~~ receiving one or more automatic upload programs, wherein each of said automatic upload programs being programmed to connect to a unique part of said exclusive storage area and to provide an interface for editing condition data to manage distribution of an associated content file, said condition data including information specifying one of a plurality of distribution channels at the server from which the content file is distributed over the network;

allowing each of said automatic upload programs to perform connection processing automatically via actuation of a corresponding upload icon to said access point in the said server;

writing a data file to the exclusive storage area automatically when connection processing is performed; and

transferring a control file used for controlling access by another user to the transferred data file, the associated control file controlling distribution of the transferred content file from the

server, the control file including the condition data set up through the interface and user information data related to the user registration;

updating a genre of the content file, a codec used to encode and/or decode the content file, a schedule specifying when the content file is broadcast from the server over the network, a commercial setting including a link corresponding to commercial data associated with the content file and a content identification corresponding to the content file of the condition data via the interface; and

updating the server with the updates of the condition data made via the interface.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A network system consisting of a server and an information processing device to connect to said server over a network, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting user registration data necessary to secure a user's exclusive storage area by user registration in said server, to said server over said network;

receiving means for receiving address data defined, in part, by the user registration data, the address designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area from said server over said network and for receiving one or more automatic upload programs, wherein each of said automatic upload programs being programmed to connect to a unique part of said exclusive storage area and to provide an interface for editing condition data to manage distribution of an associated content file, said condition data including information specifying one of a plurality of distribution channels at the server from which the content file is distributed over the network;

connection means for allowing each of said automatic upload programs to perform connection processing automatically via actuation of a corresponding upload icon to said access point in the said server; and

transfer means for writing the content file to be distributed to the exclusive storage area automatically when connection processing is performed and for transferring ~~the~~ an associated control file controlling distribution of the transferred content file from the server, the control file including the condition data set up through the interface and user information data related to the user registration,

wherein a genre of the content file, a codec used to encode and/or decode the content file, a schedule specifying when the content file is broadcast from the server over the network, a commercial setting including a link corresponding to commercial data associated with the content file and a content identification corresponding to the content file are included in the associated control file and are edited via the interface and transmitted to the server.

Claim 23 (Canceled).

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 distinguish themselves over the prior art by delineating a device, method and program storage medium directed to an automatic upload program for uploading content files and associated control files where the control files specify condition data for how the content files are to be played to an end-user. With the current examiner's amendment clarifying that the condition data specifies one of a plurality of distribution channels from which

the content file is distributed, the genre of the content file, a schedule specifying when the content file is broadcast from the server, and a commercial setting that includes a link to corresponding commercial data, the claims show a patentable distinction over the prior art. Additionally, the claims recite that the automatic upload program provide an interface for editing this information and are transferred to the server with the content file. The prior art gives no indication that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to upload content files and the specific types of condition data contained within the associated control files, in particular the fact that the commercial link, the distribution channel, and schedule specifying when the content file is broadcast from the server is updated at the automatic upload program prior to being transmitted to the server, in the fashion and manner presented in the independent claims. It is important to note that it is the unique combination of the features taken together that is considered to what distinguishes the claimed invention over the prior art. and Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 19-22 are allowed based on their dependence on claims 1, 6, 11, and 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Peterson, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5.825.876;
Inoue et al, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0016963;
Peterson et al, U.S. Patent No. 6.594.682;
Ellis et al, U.S. Patent No. 6.774.926;
Yoshimine et al, U.S. Patent No. 6.963.898;
Mourad et al, U.S. Patent No. 7.213.005.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOHM CHANKONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3942. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday [8:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571.272.3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dohm Chankong/
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